In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to detect *van*A in a sample, comprising:

a) contacting a sample suspected of comprising amplified *vanA* nucleic acid with at least one *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe under high stringency hybridization conditions effective to form a hybrid between the *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe and *vanA* nucleic acid in the sample, wherein the *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe under high stringency conditions hybridizes to sequences which include sequences substantially corresponding to SEQ ID NO:3, the complement thereof, or a portion thereof and comprises sequences which include sequences substantially corresponding to ~~nucleotides 870 to 896 (~~SEQ ID NO:3~~) of the *vanA* gene~~, the complement thereof, or a portion ~~of the sequences substantially corresponding to nucleotides 870 to 896 or the complement thereof~~ and wherein the amplified *vanA* nucleic acid has, sequences substantially corresponding to ~~nucleotides 851 to 868 (~~SEQ ID NO:2~~) of the *vanA* gene~~, the complement thereof, or a portion ~~of the sequences substantially corresponding to nucleotides 851 to 868 or the complement~~ thereof~~, or~~ and sequences substantially corresponding to ~~nucleotides 898 to 917 (~~SEQ ID NO:4~~) of the *vanA* gene~~, the complement thereof, or a portion ~~of the sequences substantially corresponding to nucleotides 898 to 917 or the complement~~ thereof; and

b) detecting or determining the presence or amount of hybrid formation, wherein hybrid formation is indicative of *vanA* nucleic acid in the sample.

2. (Withdrawn) A method to detect *vanB* in a sample, comprising:

a) contacting a sample suspected of comprising amplified *vanB* nucleic acid with at least one *vanB*-specific oligonucleotide probe under high stringency hybridization conditions effective to form a hybrid between the *vanB*-specific oligonucleotide probe and *vanB* nucleic acid in the sample, wherein the *vanB*-specific oligonucleotide probe comprises sequences which include sequences substantially corresponding to nucleotides 387 to 404 of the *vanB* gene, the complement thereof, or a portion thereof, sequences substantially corresponding to nucleotides 406 to 423 of the *vanB* gene, the complement thereof, or a portion thereof, or sequences

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3 wherein one *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide primer comprises sequences corresponding to the complement of nucleotides 898 to 919 of the *vanA* gene or a portion thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3 wherein the presence or amount of amplified nucleic acid is detected or determined with an oligonucleotide probe comprising sequences corresponding to nucleotides 870 to 896 of the *vanA* gene, the complement thereof or a portion thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~one~~ the *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe ~~comprises sequences corresponding to nucleotides 870 to 896 of the *vanA* gene, the complement thereof or the portion thereof~~ is no more than 50 nucleotides in length and has at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the amplified nucleic acid is obtained by amplifying a biological sample comprising nucleic acid with at least one *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide primer comprising sequences corresponding to ~~nucleotides 851 to 868 of the *vanA* gene~~ SEQ ID NO:2 or the portion thereof, or sequences corresponding to ~~the complement of nucleotides 898 to 917 of the *vanA* gene~~ SEQ ID NO:4 or the portion thereof.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein one *vanB*-specific oligonucleotide primer comprises sequences corresponding to nucleotides 387 to 404 of the *vanB* gene or a portion thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein one *vanB*-specific oligonucleotide primer comprises sequences corresponding to the complement of nucleotides 426 to 446 of the *vanB* gene or a portion thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the presence or amount of amplified nucleic acid is detected or determined with an oligonucleotide probe comprising sequences